

California Home

Wednesday

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# CALIFORNIA ACUPUNCTURE BOARD

My CA

**Professional Titles/Abbreviations**

Please be advised that Attorney General Opinion No. 87-103, dated March 3, 1988, concluded that an acupuncturist **MAY NOT** use the initials "O.M.D." or the title "Oriental Medical Doctor" or "D.O.M." or the title "Doctor Oriental Medicine" without the inclusion of more information (L.Ac. or C.A.) in advertising acupuncture practice. A licensed acupuncturist **who can document proof of an approved Doctor in Oriental Medicine** **MAY** use those terms in conjunction with more information, i.e. the title of licensed acupuncturist.

**Acceptable use would be...**

Name, L.Ac., O.M.D. or D.O.M.  
 Name, Lic.Ac., O.M.D. or D.O.M.  
 Name, C.A., O.M.D. or D.O.M.  
 Name, Licensed Acupuncturist, O.M.D. or D.O.M.  
 Name, Certified Acupuncturist, O.M.D. or D.O.M.  
 Name, O.M.D. or D.O.M., L.Ac.  
 Name, O.M.D. or D.O.M., C.A.  
 Name, O.M.D. or D.O.M., Lic.Ac.  
 Name, O.M.D. or D.O.M., Licensed Acupuncturist  
 Name, O.M.D. or D.O.M., Certified Acupuncturist

**Unacceptable use would be...**

Name, O.M.D. or D.O.M.  
 Name, Oriental Medical Doctor or Doctor Oriental Medicine

In addition, according to section 1399.456 of the Acupuncture Regulations, anyone using the title "Medical Doctor" or "Doctor Oriental Medicine" **must have obtained the doctorate degree from a school that was approved by the California Department of Education at the time of issuance**.

Please be advised also, that in the State of California, it is **improper to use any title** that makes reference to a medical doctor, such as M.D. (China) or C.M.D. (Chinese Medical Doctor), or otherwise. Only those licensed as a **physician and surgeon**, M.D. (medical doctor), by the State of California may use such titles.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact the Acupuncture Board.

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